

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /067 W

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R 240901Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 093

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 1013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, MARR, PK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF PAK AIR FORCE ATTACHE TO WASHINGTON

REF: LAHORE 0001

1. SAYING HE HAD URGENT MATTER TO DISCUSS, PAF GROUP CAPTAIN SAJJAD HAIDER DROPPED BY MY HOUSE JULY 18 AND ASKED ABOUT PROCEDURES INVOLVED AND TIME IT TOOK TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR PAKISTANI MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON. WHEN I ASKED WHY, HE SAID HE HAD JUST BEEN TOLD HE WAS BEING ASSIGNED AS PAK AIR FORCE ATTACHE THERE, AND WAS ANXIOUS TO GO.

2. SINCE HE RETURNED FROM VISIT TO BROTHER IN US IN JANUARY (SEE REFTTEL), HAIDER HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF FLIGHT SAFETY FOR PAF, STATIONED AT PAF HEADQUARTERS IN PESHAWAR. HE TOLD ME HE CONSIDERED THAT POSITION "USELESS," AND WANTED TO FIND BETTER SLOT ABROAD. HE APPARENTLY WAS IN LINE FOR JOB AS COMMANDER OF PAF GROUP IN ABU DHABI, BUT FOR SOME REASON OPENING NEVER MATERIALIZED.

3. I TOLD HAIDER I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN CLEARING DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS FOR MILITARY OFFICER, OR INDEED IF THERE WAS NEED FOR CLEARANCE. I ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE SUCH PROCEDURE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MATTER OF SEVERAL WEEKS.

4. HAIDER CLAIMS HE IS DIVORCED FROM HIS WIFE, WHO LIVES IN
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KARACHI. SHE SAYS HE IS NOT, BUT ISSUE IS ACADEMIC IN PAKISTAN

AND HAIDER'S LIFE STYLE IS THAT OF BACHELOR, WHICH IS ONE REASON HE IS EAGER TO GET TO WASHINGTON. HE PLANS TO LOOK UP HATAWAY (INR/RNA) UPON ARRIVAL, BUT HAS ASKED ME FOR NAMES OF FRIENDS OUTSIDE DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY CIRCUITS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HAIDER HAS APPARENTLY BEEN REHABILITATED, IT LOOKS AS IF HE IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED FIT FOR FIRST-LINE OPERATIONAL DUTY IN PAKISTAN. HE IS ANTI-AHMADIYA, AND CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN REMOVING FORMER AIR MARSHAL CHAUDHRY.
GRIFFIN

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